

## AMERICAN WIFE WHO KNOWS HOW TO BE A MOTHER

Mrs. Woodallen Chapman Says  
a Parent Must Have Con-  
trol of Herself.

WHEN TO BLAME SELF.

"If a Child Be Naughty Ask  
Yourself 'Wherein Have  
You Failed?'"

**Marguerite Moore Marshall.**  
If Dr. Adolph Bergshteyn's assertion that the American mother is virtually an incompetent has served no other purpose, it has brought out a supply of most interesting mother-lore from women whose personal experience has thoroughly qualified them to speak on their theme.

An investigation of the New York City Mothers' Club, a prominent organization, the wife of one of our leading musicians, and many others have explained here, in addition to their other claims to distinction, they have succeeded in bringing up healthy, happy sons and daughters. To-day's addition to this group is Mrs. Woodallen Chapman, formerly vice-president of the New York City Mothers' Club. Mrs. Chapman is also well known as a writer and lecturer, and has a seven-year-old son.

"The whole control of the control and education of a child," Mrs. Chapman told me, "is something that is not taught in the mother's control and education of a child. I think that many mothers don't give enough consideration to their personal responsibility for the acts of their children. For in the main it is perfectly true that as in the mother, so will be the child."

Mrs. Chapman is a young woman, with a manner charmingly balanced between alertness and poise. I can imagine that she is a delightful companion for children, neither overweighing them with oppressive dignity nor tolerating deliberate lawlessness.

"When my boy does anything he shouldn't," she continued, "I tell you short and say to myself, 'How do you have been doing? How have you failed? To what degree are you to blame for this?' And one can't make such an examination in complete sincerity without finding that one has been a little measure to blame for the child's delinquency somewhere in one's own serenity and self-control."

"Then that explains," I suggested, "why the average mother asserts that whenever she is particularly tired and worn out the children are especially bad?"

**T DEPENDS ON THE MOTHER'S TEMPERAMENT.**

"Of course," Mrs. Chapman asserted, "I've often heard mothers make that statement, and I've thought, 'How do you expect to control your children when your hold over yourself is temporarily weak?' Often a mother, thoroughly conscientious but nervously exhausted, is in a continual struggle with her little ones while another mother who apparently isn't trying half as hard would maintain discipline successfully a great deal better. The children are bound to respond to the mental and temperamental state of the mother, whatever that is."

She ought to think of that. A great many mothers do not think enough. They find themselves confronted with scenes of emergency, and they pass a hasty judgment on each and every one to the next. Of course, when the emergency arises, you must grapple with it and do your best on the instant. But afterward you ought to think it all over and find the lesson in it.

"Every now and then I find myself slipping into opportunist methods of discipline," Mrs. Chapman added frankly. "But as soon as I realize it I try to pull myself out. For instance, some time ago my son was apt to linger too long over his dinner. The morning I would speak to him several times, and there came to be almost a regular morning unpleasantness. Then I stopped and considered. After that he was spoken to once. Then he was left to his own device, and I found that being left logically resulted in a cold, solitary breakfast. He didn't like it a bit, and he began to be ready on time."

**CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IS NOT APPROVED.**

"I wonder how you feel about corporal punishment as a means of discipline," I said.

"Corporal punishment is simply an expression of all the undesirable qualities which we don't want in our children," asserted Mrs. Chapman. "It stands for anger, a resort to physical violence, domination that might make right, a cowardly fear of pain. Also, of course, it is a parental admission of failure in judgment, self-control and reasoning ability."

"The ideal discipline is that which shows the child that what is wrong is also unpleasant, and that the unpleasantness is a direct consequence of the misbehavior. When my son was a baby and attempted to indulge in the wailing fits of screaming which most small children experience when they are simply alone and left the room. He had nothing to make an impression on, and he was humiliated. He promptly stopped the obnoxious screams, which he saw were resulting in his own discomfort and not that of others."

"There is another matter in which I am especially interested," Mrs. Chapman broke off suddenly. "It's been called very forcibly by my attention in this vacation season that has just closed."

"My son was in the country on the farm, where he didn't have to dress up and where there were plenty of playmates. There was something about every minute, and it was doing hard but part of my time was spent in the mountains or at the beach. And he

a child at these more celebrated vacation places was beginning to have the good time my little boy enjoyed on the farm. At the big resorts the children sometimes had to dress twice a day, they had to live in hotels, they had to be brushed and coiffed at every turn, and even outdoors there was scarcely anything for them to do.

"The great thing children need is freedom and an atmosphere of unconstrained life. If it is in any way possible they should be brought up in the country; if not, they should spend their vacation there instead of being dragged out to stylish resorts. There are so many perfectly innocent and enjoyable things for them to do on the farm which are impossible in a flat or summer hotel."

"For the rest, the wise parent nips faults in the bud, and doesn't encourage 'outlets' in the bad, which will have to be punished as naughtiness later on. In reasoning with a child, it is much more efficacious to prove to him that a certain act makes him look ridiculous or babyish than that it is inherently

wicked. The fear of being laughed at is one of the strongest motives to which one may appeal, even with little children."

"I believe in telling children the truth about the origin of life as soon as they ask about it, and in never telling them an untruth about anything. But a child may become a tyrant at asking questions, and it isn't wise or necessary to answer all of them. The point is to keep the natural tendencies along normal instead of abnormal lines."

**Noblett Gets Five Years.**  
Edward Arden Noblett, pleading guilty yesterday in General Sessions, to grand larceny, was sentenced by Judge Mulqueen to five years in Sing Sing. Noblett was a broker with offices at No. 63 West Thirty-fifth street when he was arrested May 26 last, charged with having secured \$600 from Peter Hulsebosch of No. 8 Trinity place, for stock and bonds of an iron mining company in New Jersey which existed only in his mind. He has served a term in Sing Sing.

## WEDDING GIFTS ABLAZE.

Chandelier Falls Among Presents—  
Policeman Saves License.

Half a dozen friends of Miss Frances Berkowitz called at her home, No. 82 Prospect avenue, the Bronx, last night to see the presents she had received in honor of her coming marriage. The gifts, many of them china and glass, were on a table. In a glow of excitement, Miss Berkowitz lighted the gas. The exclamations of delight and admiration at the display were suddenly changed to dismay as the chandelier fell crashing to the table, demolishing the presents. At the same time the lattice in the ceiling caught fire. The shouts of fright brought Patrolman Wolfe, who sounded an alarm. He then ran into the house and rescued the marriage license, which was among the shattered glass. The firemen extinguished the blaze in a jiffy.

## POLITICAL

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Letter from Walter E. Weyl, of the Progressive National Committee, to R. S. Gray

## PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL COMMITTEE, HOTEL MANHATTAN, NEW YORK

September 25th, 1912.

Mr. R. S. Gray,  
1921 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, Cal.  
My Dear Mr. Gray:

It is apparent to every student of American political conditions that we have reached a turning point in our national development. Old issues have disappeared and new issues have arisen. A political campaign is being fought in which, above the clash of rival personalities, is seen a contest of ideas, a struggle for principles, a groping toward a national reorganization, economic and moral. The ideals which have long inspired our intellectual leaders are now inspiring the masses of our population. Today we have the opportunity, if not to solve, at least to bring nearer to solution a group of vitally important problems which have long engaged the study of economists and political scientists. It is because of this largeness of the issues that I feel justified in making this appeal to you on my own account and in behalf of the National Committee of the Progressive party. I neither wish to impose my political convictions nor to inquire too narrowly into your own, but I do wish to assure you that the National Committee would feel immensely fortified if assured of the interest and co-operation of men who, like yourself, have given thought to our national problems.

It is in this sense that I am writing to inquire whether you will assist us in one or more of the following ways:

- 1—The drafting of short editorials on any planks of the Progressive platform. Copy of this platform is being sent you under separate cover.
- 2—The writing of signed communications to local newspapers.
- 3—The delivery of addresses to voters either in your own State or at such place as the National Committee might request.
- 4—Informal talks to such groups of students as may organize themselves into college Progressive party leagues.

Will you kindly inform me, if possible, by return mail, whether we may have your support and if so along what line of activity? I can assure you that we will endeavor not to make too great a demand upon your time and that you will be perfectly free to accept or reject any suggestions which may come from this committee. I wish to thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter, and beg to remain, sincerely yours,

WALTER E. WEYL.

Telegraphic Reply of R. S. Gray

San Francisco, Cal., Oct. 7th, 1912.

Walter E. Weyl,  
Care Progressive National Committee,  
Hotel Manhattan, New York, N. Y.:

The solution of vital important sociological and economic problems should not be endangered by partisanship. Please command me for anything I can do free from partisanship along lines suggested by your letter of September 25th, just received. Am writing you an open letter.

R. S. GRAY.

## EXCURSIONS.

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10:00 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	10:30 A.M.
1:00 P.M.	1:00 P.M.	11:00 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:00 P.M.	12:30 P.M.	12:30 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	
		2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	
		4:30 P.M.	3:30 P.M.	8:00 P.M.	
		7:30 P.M.	7:30 P.M.		
		8:00 P.M.	8:00 P.M.		

FARE, ADULTS 50c; CHILDREN 25c.

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There is nothing new in making an offer of a so-called \$350 piano for \$200; but you will never find a (new) piano of established reputation and value ever offered at such a reduction.

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It is a dangerous mistake to forget that a piano is more than a piece of merchandise.

You buy it, not for a day or a month, but for the years of musical satisfaction and service that you are entitled to receive.

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